



June 4, 2019

**BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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**Counselors:**

Keeping Scouts safe is the most important priority of the Boy Scouts of America. For this reason, the BSA wishes to immediately resolve any impediments to your sharing of the information in your possession, in order to remove potentially dangerous individuals from Scouting and to report them directly to law enforcement.

I urge you to provide the information the BSA requested on May 16 without further delay. Once we receive this information, we can report these individuals immediately to law enforcement and take action to remove and/or preclude the individuals from registration and/or participation in Scouting in accordance with our policies.

The BSA's mandatory reporting policy requires that all persons involved in Scouting report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is being, or has been, physically or sexually abused. This reporting obligation imposes an intentionally broad, non-delegable duty on every single person involved in Scouting.

Thus, consistent with established BSA policies, the protocol in these matters will continue to be as follows:

- Once the BSA receives any good-faith suspicion or belief regarding suspected physical or sexual child abuse, the information is reported to local law enforcement. This policy also mandates the reporting to local authorities of any good-faith suspicion or belief that a child is being, or has been, physically or emotionally neglected or exposed to any form of violence, threat, or sexual exploitation.
- If the information received is sufficient to identify and locate an alleged perpetrator of physical or sexual misconduct, the information regarding the





alleged perpetrator and the location(s) where the alleged abuse occurred is also provided to law enforcement.

- The individual is then removed from Scouting if currently registered, and whether registered or not, the name of the alleged perpetrator is added to the Volunteer Screening Database to preclude them from rejoining in the future.

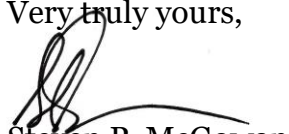
While alleged perpetrators may appeal this decision, absent clear and convincing information that the allegations are unfounded, anyone removed remains prohibited from participation in Scouting and is not reinstated.

To ensure transparency in our reporting and efforts, we intend to copy you on any and all notifications to law enforcement and to provide them with your contact information. These agencies can then contact you as necessary to obtain more information from you and/or your clients.

If your contention is accurate, and you have knowledge of alleged perpetrators currently unknown to the BSA, your failure to provide this information is potentially leaving Scouts at great risk.

It is my hope that you will conclude it is in the best interests of Scouts to share this information with the BSA immediately – or, in the alternative, that you will immediately and directly report the allegations to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Very truly yours,



Steven P. McGowan  
General Counsel

